

EIKENBURG, FRANK CHARLES (1944 ~ 2009). The following is an article published upon the death of former Texas House of Representatives member Frank Eikenburg. The article was published in the June 9, 2009 edition of the Dallas Morning News and was written by Joe Simnacher.

"Frank Eikenburg was devoted to the Republican Party and politics. He was elected to the first of two terms to the Texas Legislature in 1980 by ousting a Democrat who had represented Collin and Rockwall counties for 14 years.

Mr. Eikenburg had careers as a financial counselor and lobbyist and served on the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles for Gov. Bill Clements. He was in Austin tending to political matters during the final hours of the regular session last week.

Mr. Eikenburg, 64, died Thursday at Medical City Dallas Hospital of complications of liver cancer that had been diagnosed in November.

A celebration of his life will be at 7:30 p.m. today at Ted Dickey West Funeral Home in Plano. His ashes will be buried in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin.

'The Republican Party was his religion,' said longtime friend Roland Dickey, of Dickey's Barbecue Restaurants. 'It was his religion; it was his church, to the day he died. He loved the Republican Party.'

Mr. Eikenburg was a fun-loving guy who enjoyed traveling and fine dining.

'He loved Kentucky bourbon,' Mr. Dickey said.

Mr. Eikenburg was born in Wellington, Texas, and grew up in Dallas, where he was an Eagle Scout and a 1962 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School. He received his bachelor's degree in 1966 from Texas Technical College, now Texas Tech University.

He served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was honorably discharged as a staff sergeant in 1967.

Back in civilian life, Mr. Eikenburg was an investment counselor and managed his family's farms. He increasingly became involved in politics.

In 1978, he was Mr. Clements' Collin County campaign manager.

Mr. Eikenburg was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1980, the year of the Ronald Reagan presidential landslide. Mr. Eikenburg ran unopposed in 1982 but did not seek re-election in 1984.

Mr. Clements appointed him to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles in 1989, and he served until 1991.

He is survived by his daughter, Emily Eikenburg of Dallas; and two sisters, Madelynn Brooks of Dallas and Livonia Gay Graves of Houston.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society."